

## Conference Summary

*Donald D. Cobb*

*Associate Director Threat Reduction – Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, NM*

I think I have the best job and the best position in the entire conference. If I read the agenda correctly, I have one hour, I have no assignments, and I can do anything that I please, but since I have not had the good fortune to be at as much of the conference as many of you have, I decided I could select my own panel. The gentlemen before you are the panel that I have selected.

What I would like to do is first acknowledge Rajan Gupta, Terry Hawkins, and Siegfried Hecker for their determination in getting this conference to occur and the key roles they played in making it a success. You are all aware that it takes a lot of effort and if you were here at the beginning of this conference, you are aware that this is the first of a series of conferences that John Browne, our Director, would like to sponsor. There are clearly a number of reasons for doing that. One of them is education. We have to educate ourselves on issues that are vital to the future and that will be used in determining how the Laboratory is going to evolve. The education is not only for the people that you see before you or that you may have seen who are involved in this conference, but it is for the people who are coming. We will have many new staff members and new people coming in to the Laboratory. The issues that a Laboratory like Los Alamos has to deal with have to be forward looking because we maintain a science and engineering base. That science and engineering base is the thing that keeps us going.

So, without making a long speech, let me say that in order to keep us strong in science and engineering, it is necessary to have a constant rejuvenation of ideas, new people, and a constant testing of yourselves and your ideas about what the future holds for you. This is what the purpose of this series of conferences is all about. The idea of having these conferences did not spring full blown out of somebody's head. It took at least a couple of years.

I would like to begin by thanking Rajan Gupta, because without his absolute commitment and steadfastness in continuing to remind us that we needed to do this, this would not have happened. So let us thank Rajan.

Terry Hawkins runs the Non-Proliferation International Security Division. That division has the major focus on most applications to some of the problems that you have heard about, the technologies, etc. Without Terry, again, this conference would not have occurred. That is because, among other things, Terry knows many of the speakers, is well known in this community, and has many of the contacts. Also, as we all know, the financial area is very important to the success of any conference, so financially speaking, Terry is responsible in that area. I wish to thank Terry very much.

Last, but not least, is Siegfried Hecker. When he was Director of the Laboratory, he carried the laboratory forward in many ways. He was always steadfast in support of the science and technology of the Laboratory. He has also continued to have some of the broadest interests in national security issues. As the Director, he had less time to do that, but now that he is a Senior Fellow and not the Director, he has really invested his time and effort in important ways. Thank you Sig.

To make this successful, the quality of the speakers has to be outstanding, and although I have had the chance to hear only a few presentations, but having looked over the list of speakers, I know that the quality of the speakers assembled for this conference is outstanding. Many of the speakers have probably already left, but for the speakers that are still here, would you please stand for yourselves and for all of the speakers who came here. Your commitment and your intellectual investment in the conference have been absolutely vital to making it successful.

I would like to tell just a short personal story. There is a reason for doing it and I will tell you what it is at the end. On the morning of September 11, about 7:00 A.M., I was getting ready to come to work. The television was on and it showed the first plane hitting the World Trade Center. Immediately my wife and I thought about our daughter who lives in Brooklyn, since she takes the subway to work each morning. I was noticing Peter Probst's diagram of that area. She was on that Wall Street subway when the plane hit. The upshot is it turns out, she was fine, but it was a horrific experience. The train stopped dead in the tunnel, and they had to get out of the subway and out of the tunnel. They were, basically, refugees from Manhattan. They had to walk and go back across the river. It was a terrible thing and it was hours for us until we were able to get the word that she was fine. I tell that story for two reasons. One, it is easy to say the world changed, but it changes for individuals. For us, the world really changed that day, and it certainly did for my daughter and her family. The other thing is, because of the complexity of this problem, I would like to say to our staff here, even to the newer staff that this is something that you will be dealing with in the future. There is no doubt about it, so we are actually turning to you. We are going to depend on you in the future. I congratulate you for having the interest for coming here and learning more about this.

Thank you all very much.

---

**DONALD D. COBB**